



Plymouth Monthly Meeting Newsletter

Meetings for Worship

First Day Meeting: 11:15 am
First Day School: 11:30 am
**Fourth Day Meeting: 7:00 pm
still happening via Zoom**
Fifth Day Meeting with PMFS:
8:45 am
**Music Circle: 2:00 – 4:00 pm
every Sunday**
Address: 2150 Butler Pike,
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Twelfth Month, 2020 FINALLY

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Dec newsletter reporter:
Dave Miller

December 2020

Sun	Dec 13	9:00 am	Worship & Ministry via Zoom
Sun	Dec 20	9:00 am	Meeting for Business via Zoom
Thurs	Dec 24	5:30 pm	Christmas Eve vigil at the wall (outside only)
Thurs	Dec 24	7:00 pm	Virtual Carol Sing via Zoom (go to website for more info) https://www.plymouthmeetingquakers.com
Sun	Dec 27	6:00 pm	Virtual Friendly Fourth

January 2021

Tues	Jan 5	7:00 pm	Care and Concern via Zoom
Sun	Jan 10	9:00 am	Worship & Ministry
Sun	Jan 17	9:00 am	Annual Meeting for Business
Sun	Jan 24	6:00 pm	Virtual Friendly Fourth

- Due to a resurgence of Covid in the area, all meetings will be conducted via Zoom again until further notice
- All First Day Meeting for Worship will begin at 11:15. You may join us any time after 11am and settle in.
- Midweek meeting for Worship will begin Wednesday at 7:00 pm
Contact Dave Miller or plymouthmonthlymeeting@gmail.com for PMM Zoom information

Music Circle every Sunday from 2:00-4:00 pm until further notice via Zoom (contact Bill Alberts for an invitation) billalberts@verizon.net

Queries for December

Deepening Our Faith: Meeting for Business

Is our meeting for business held in worship in which we seek divine guidance?

How do we sustain prayerful consideration of all aspects of an issue and address difficult problems with a search for truth that is unhurried by the pressures of time?

Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?

- *Do I regularly attend meeting for business? If unable to attend, how do I fulfill the responsibility to understand and embrace the decisions made?*
- *How do I affirm and support God's presence in the process of discernment and reaching a decision?*
- *Do I remain open to personal transformation as the community arrives at the sense of the meeting?*



Website Update

Phase one has been completed, our Meeting website is up and running. We now need members and attenders to use the website and then make suggestions for improvements. Just as import are offers to help this new Meeting tool to meet its full potential. It's potential to provide outreach for the Meeting and as a resource to help with the communication, education, administration of our Monthly Meeting community. Each of us is a steward of a part of our Meeting community. How could the Web site be of use to you? Let us know and better yet, let's collaborate to create whatever you are thinking of. The fledgling website committee of David Miller, Carolee with help from Sally Bishop and Linda White, Barbara Hoekje and John Cardina look forward to working with you all to help build the skills to set up committee sites, archive minutes, develop outreach, add history sections, expand virtual library and social witness sections- and who knows what else you all may come up with.

Do you know that you can access:

- Newsletters current and past. Go to the Events and News section of the Website
- Business meeting minutes both the draft of the current unapproved minutes and minutes back to 2017. More years are being added. Go to the Meeting Resource and

then the Members only section. You must be a registered member of the website and a member or an attender with access granted to view these Monthly Meeting documents.

- Our Meeting's virtual library in the Meeting Resources section (no login required)
 - Faith and Practice. The library section of the website has an online version of Faith and Practice for quick reference or reading.
 - The monthly Queries are also posted with a quick link to open
 - Friends Journal is available to everyone in the Meeting. Both the most recent edition and past journals. The most recent addition is Quakers in Translation which includes the annual Book issue, a great reference for finding new and interesting books about our Faith, Practice and Witness to the world



Worship and Ministry

Jörg Zink – Source: Doors to the Feast

There's nothing romantic about the Christmas story. If anything, it offers a slice of a brutal world in which a child is born on the street, so to speak, with next to nothing in the way of rights and security, and not even a home. He whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas said, even as a grown man, "I have nothing. I am nowhere at home. Even at night, I have no place to rest or lay my head"...But now this man from Nazareth comes to us and invites us to mirror God's image, and shows us how. He says: you too can become light, as God is light. Because what is all around you is not hell, but rather a world waiting to be filled with hope and faith.

This has indeed been a challenging year for us all. Yet, we have drawn close across distances to wait upon that still small voice, the light within to lift our hope that as we live we will live faithfully to God's leading in that our first motion in all our actions and inter actions will be love. May we not afraid as this year ends and new one begins. May we **walk** cheerfully **over the** world, answering that of God in every one; whereby in them ye may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you: then to the Lord God you shall be a sweet savour, and a blessing." George Fox

The Manger Mouse A Christmas Story Jane Tyson Clement

HE HUDDLED IN THE COLD outside the kitchen door. The black night was pierced with stars but he couldn't see them. He could only feel the thin chill of the night wind, and loneliness, loneliness, and not knowing where to go, what to do, for he could hardly see. He was so small his eyes were scarcely open. His soft gray coat was rumped and

To read the rest of this Christmas story go to our website.

<https://plymouthmeetingquakers.com/>

Then to Meeting Resources, Library, Stories





From the Treasurer

New way to donate to our Monthly Meeting

As the year ends, our Monthly Meeting will be closing the financial books on another active year at Plymouth despite the COVID epidemic. We have cared for our members and attenders, maintained and improved our buildings, cared for the trees and landscape and our burial grounds, sent donations to our school (PMFS), our Quarterly and Yearly Meeting to support their programs and also to multiple Social Action and Spiritual Nurture organizations. The donations of all our Members and Attenders are much appreciated. This year with the closing of the Annie H Wilson room to outside organizations our Monthly Meeting has lost one source of its income. Your end of the year donations are much appreciated.

This year, in addition to sending a check directly to our Treasurer or setting up an automatic payment from your banking institution, you can also pay by Venmo using your cell phone **@Plymouth-MonthlyMeeting**. For those familiar with Venmo this will be a simple way to make your donations. For those who would like to know more about this option click on the link below to learn more about Venmo or speak with Linda White, our Treasurer, to answer any questions you may have about sending a donation this way.
<https://www.androidauthority.com/what-is-venmo-1118461/>

Property Committee Update

It is with sadness that we report the loss of five more trees from our property. The ash bore beetle has had its way with 3 more trees this year. These trees were too far gone to be treated last year. We are happy to say that the trees that we did treat are doing fine. We also had to remove the beautiful Oak that members planted in the 1970's behind the Meeting House (it's was the one with the bench around it).

Unfortunately, the construction of the Gathering Space damage to many of its roots for it to recover. It had become a danger to those below as more and more branches died off each year. There also was a tall dead tree that had gone unnoticed in the garden between Journeys End and the Chestnut Hill graveyard. We are grateful for the care of the tree crew who have carefully removed these trees along with a number broken and hanging branches in the canopy of our trees. Each year they do a safety check of our trees to make sure those using our property are safe as they enjoy our beautiful grounds. To replace the steady loss of trees from our aging population there were 8 trees were donated and planted last year. Next year we will strive to do the same. Monetary donations towards this effort are always appreciated.



Peace and Social Concerns

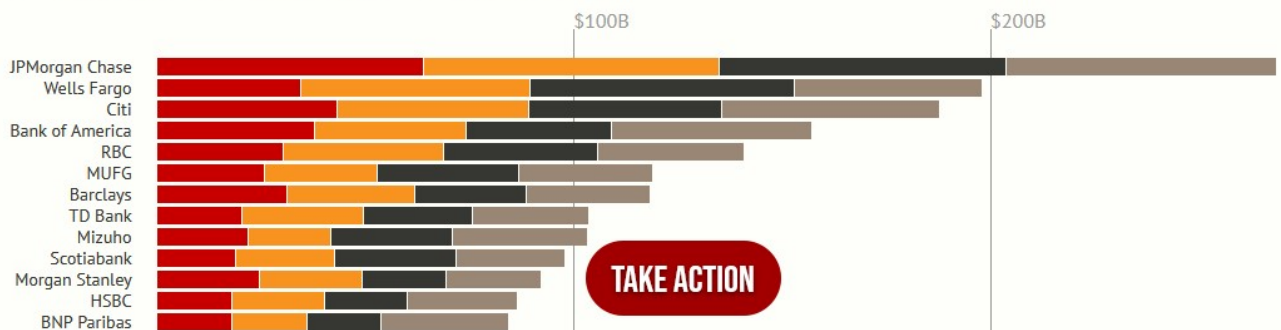
Greening of our financial stewardship

The first section of our Faith and Practice query on Stewardship of resources states: *How does our meeting accommodate ecological, economic and social justice in its uses of property and money?*

Monthly Meeting financial stewardship

Starting in November of this year all the funds invested in the Friends Fiduciary are now invested in fossil free investments. This is good for the environment and for our investment income. In the past our Monthly Meeting has directed a portion of the Meeting's investments to be fossil fuel free. There was a lower return on these investments. The passage of the Meeting's green minute 2 years ago directed all investments to be fossil fuel free within 10 years. This portion of the minute is now achieved without lowering the income generated by our invested funds. Friends Fiduciary has found that the investment opportunities for fossil fuel free investments have improved so that no reduction in the return is required. To learn more about the changes in the investment world there will be a free webinar presented by the Friends Fiduciary Corporation on Monday, November 16th at 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

TOTAL FINANCING FOR ALL FOSSIL FUELS BY YEAR, 2016 - 2019, IN US DOLLARS



Personal financial Stewardship

Where you do your banking and investing has an impact on the changes in the financial markets that are making it possible for institutions like Friends Fiduciary to transition to all investments being fossil fuel free. Friends Fiduciary currently does not offer personal investment of 401K or other funds. Stay tuned, this may be changing soon. There are, however, numerous other investors that can offer fossil free investment. If you have the privilege of having a 401K or other funds to invest consider these options. Talk with other members of Meeting to see what they are doing as they may have suggestions.

The 2020 Fossil Fuel Finance report has been published and can be found on the Rain Forest Action Network Site. It has lots of information about who is investing in fossil fuel projects. Of note three of the top five banks are American.

<https://www.ran.org/bankingonclimatechange2020>

Simple action to aid Local Refugees and Immigrants

Purchase needed items for immigrant, asylees and refugee families at the HIAS charity registry hosted by Target. HIAS Pennsylvania has identified needed items for specific immigrant, asylees and refugee families in the greater Philadelphia region. Use the following link to go to the Charity registry at Target.

<https://www.target.com/giftregistry/giftgiver?registryId=f1b20dc00e45442686c7300b0d3dbe7d>

You will see items from diapers for babies to soap, light bulbs to bed blankets, portable heaters to cooking pots. Consider an item that you can afford and place the order right on the same screen. Consider checking back once a month.

HIAS Pennsylvania provides legal, resettlement, citizenship, and supportive services to immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers from all backgrounds in order to ensure their fair treatment and full integration into American society. HIAS Pennsylvania advocates for just and inclusive practices.



Reflections on Our Meeting as a Safe Refuge - By Vincent O'Grady

Recently I had two experiences – among many others over the years - that reinforced to me how much of a role our Meetinghouse plays in our community in small and unseen ways.

These two experiences specifically fall in to the category of "safe refuge".

Click the link below to read the full essay

https://plymouthmeetingquakers.com/Articles/595169/Thanksgiving_Reflections_on.aspx

HAITIAN CHILDREN FACE DEPORTATION



#28Children

The **Shut Down Berks Coalition** has been fighting nonstop to save the twenty-eight children in twenty-three Black and Brown families being fast tracked by ICE for deportation. The good news is families are still here! They thank community members who have been calling and emailing members of congress and ICE to stop these deportations and ask us to continue.

Call, email ICE Director, Simona Flores.

Director Flores: 214-918-4822

Philadelphia ERO Office: 215-656-7164

Email: Simona.L.Flores@ice.dhs.gov

Sample script: "23 families, with a total of 28 children, have been detained in family prisons during the entire pandemic, are now being fast tracked for deportation during the holidays. They are being unfairly denied the right to asylum. This is illegal and immoral. Families need to be free and safe, not deported to the violence they fled. Do not deport these families, release them to relatives or sponsors."

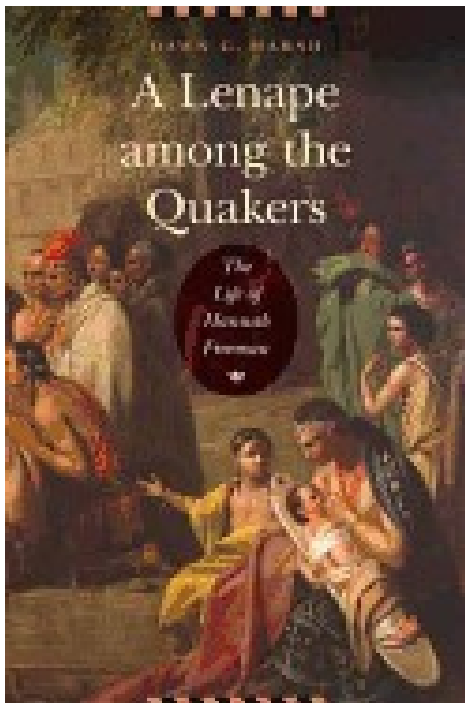


December Book Club

"A Lenape among the Quakers: The Life of Hannah Freeman"

Email us at ByberryQuakers@gmail.com to get the Meeting ID and Password

Join us for an interesting (and equally disturbing) story of Hannah Freeman, a Lenape woman who "on July 28, 1797... stood before the newly appointed almsman of Pennsylvania's Chester County and delivered a brief account of her life. In a sad irony, Hannah Freeman was establishing her residency—a claim that paved the way for her removal to the poorhouse. Ultimately, however, it meant the final removal from the ancestral land she had so tenaciously maintained. Thus was William Penn's "peaceable kingdom" preserved.



A Lenape among the Quakers reconstructs Hannah Freeman's history, traveling from the days of her grandmothers before European settlement to the beginning of the nineteenth century. The story that emerges is one of persistence and resilience, as "Indian Hannah" negotiates life with the Quaker neighbors who employ her, entrust their children to her, seek out her healing skills, and, when she is weakened by sickness and age, care for her. And yet these are the same neighbors whose families have dispossessed hers. Fascinating in its own right, Hannah Freeman's life is also remarkable for its unique view of a Native American woman in a colonial community during a time of dramatic transformation and upheaval. In particular it expands our

understanding of colonial history and the Native experience that history often renders silent.